

CVB SCAN 05/12/2023 9:49

For NOV # F5319413

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
(for issuance of an arrest warrant or summons)

I state than on May 2, 2023 while exercising my duties as a law enforcement officer in the Judicial District of Arizona.

I, Special Agent Brent Robinson, was conducting a wildland fire cause and origin investigation on the Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District on Mt. Lemmon Highway near milepost 4 when I was shown a video recording of what appears to have been an unknown older white male starting the wildfire by shooting incendiary ammunition which ricochets and immediately starts numerous fires on the public lands. Two witnesses at the shooting area that day (April 30, 2023) were video-recording and the unknown older white male came up to them and asked if he could shoot at their homemade target with his shotgun. They agreed and filmed as he shot 5 times from shotgun with flaming incendiary ammunition. Immediately after he finished shooting they notice numerous fires had been ignited on the national forest which were not burning before he shot the incendiary ammunition from his shotgun. They all left the area, and the unknown man called 911 to report the fire. The two witnesses called the sheriff's office as well and said they had video proof of the start of the fire and shared this video with US Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations personnel. The video was shared with me and we used it to assist in identifying a few fire origin locations to document for our report. We also used the video by including it in an issued press-release with the request for the public to help identify the shooter. Several tips were received the next day which identified the shooter as Michael SOBCYNSKI of Tucson, AZ. In following these tips, I was able to get several people to positively identify the man in the witness video as SOBCYNSKI, including his employer. I also obtained the 911 call log and the first call was placed by phone number [REDACTED] with the caller refusing to give his name. I database check of that phone number evidenced it was registered to Michael SOBCYNSKI. I arranged contact with SOBCYNSKI by leaving a business card with his employer and he agreed to speak with me at his apartment on May 3, 2023. SOBCYNSKI was shown a still picture from the video, and the video itself, and he commented that it made him look "fat"! SOBCYNSKI was hesitant at first but did finally admit that he was there the day the fire started, that he did "unknowingly" load his shotgun with 5 incendiary shotgun shells that he just randomly grabbed from his ammunition stash, that he knew he was being recorded shooting the younger men's target, and that the fire began immediately after he shot his shotgun. SOBCYNSKI stated he did not mean to start the fire and called 911 immediately as he safely left the area. Based upon my observations, the observation and reports of others, and my interviews, I issued two citations to Michael SOBCYNSKI for violating 36 CFR 261.5b -- Firing Incendiary Ammunition, and 36 CFR 261.5c -- Causing trees, brush, and grass to burn except as authorized by permit, pursuant to my authority under 16 USC 551 & 559.

my personal observation my personal investigation

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information which I have set forth above and on the face of this violation notice is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on: 5/5/23 Det. Kuhn
Date Officer's Signature

probable cause has been stated for the issuance of a warrant.

Executed on: _____
Date U.S. Magistrate Judge

For NOV # F5319414

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
(for issuance of an arrest warrant or summons)

I state that on May 2, 2023 while exercising my duties as a law enforcement officer in the Judicial District of Arizona.

I, Special Agent Brent Robinson, was conducting a wildland fire cause and origin investigation on the Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District on Mt. Lemmon Highway near milepost 4 when I was shown a video recording of what appears to have been an unknown older white male starting the wildfire by shooting incendiary ammunition which ricochets and immediately starts numerous fires on the public lands. Two witnesses at the shooting area that day (April 30, 2023) were video-recording and the unknown older white male came up to them and asked if he could shoot at their homemade target with his shotgun. They agreed and filmed as he shot 5 times from shotgun with flaming incendiary ammunition. Immediately after he finished shooting they notice numerous fires had been ignited on the national forest which were not burning before he shot the incendiary ammunition from his shotgun. They all left the area, and the unknown man called 911 to report the fire. The two witnesses called the sheriff's office as well and said they had video proof of the start of the fire and shared this video with US Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations personnel. The video was shared with me and we used it to assist in identifying a few fire origin locations to document for our report. We also used the video by including it in an issued press-release with the request for the public to help identify the shooter. Several tips were received the next day which identified the shooter as Michael SOBCYNSKI of Tucson, AZ. In following these tips, I was able to get several people to positively identify the man in the witness video as SOBCYNSKI, including his employer. I also obtained the 911 call log and the first call was placed by phone number [REDACTED] with the caller refusing to give his name. I database check of that phone number evidenced it was registered to Michael SOBCYNSKI. I arranged contact with SOBCYNSKI by leaving a business card with his employer and he agreed to speak with me at his apartment on May 3, 2023. SOBCYNSKI was shown a still picture from the video, and the video itself, and he commented that it made him look "fat"! SOBCYNSKI was hesitant at first but did finally admit that he was there the day the fire started, that he did "unknowingly" load his shotgun with 5 incendiary shotgun shells that he just randomly grabbed from his ammunition stash, that he knew he was being recorded shooting the younger men's target, and that the fire began immediately after he shot his shotgun. SOBCYNSKI stated he did not mean to start the fire and called 911 immediately as he safely left the area. Based upon my observations, the observation and reports of others, and my interviews, I issued two citations to Michael SOBCYNSKI for violating 36 CFR 261.5b – Firing Incendiary Ammunition, and 36 CFR 261.5c – Causing trees, brush, and grass to burn except as authorized by permit, pursuant to my authority under 16 USC 551 & 559.

my personal observation my personal investigation

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information which I have set forth above and on the face of this violation notice is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on: 5/5/23 
Date Officer's Signature

probable cause has been stated for the issuance of a warrant.

Executed on: _____
Date U.S. Magistrate Judge